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AUG 22 2006

REMARKS

Claim 41 has been previously cancelled. The claims remaining in the application are 1-40 and 42.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westcott et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,628,433) in view of Chavez (U.S. Patent No. 6,131,522). The Office Action has rejected claims 33-42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westcott et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,628,433) in view of Sakura (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,684). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Westcott et al. reference is assigned to Eastman Kodak Company as is the present patent application. Subject matter which qualifies as prior art does not preclude patentability where the subject matter is "owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person." See MPEP 2146. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejections based on Westcott et al. in combination with either Chavez or Sakura be withdrawn.

The improper nature of the rejections was conveyed to the examiner today during a telephone conference with the undersigned. The examiner agreed that the rejections were improper and indicated they would be withdrawn.

The Office Action has rejected claims 22-42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima (U.S. Patent No. 5,532,841) in view of Sakura (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,684). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants first note that the Office Action contains a typographical error with respect to this rejection. The rejection should read "claims 22-32". Applicants noted the examiner provided no reasoning as to why claims 33-42 would be rejected based on the cited art. The typographical error was confirmed with the examiner during the telephone conference. Accordingly, only claims 22-32 stand rejected based on the combination of Nakajima in view of Sakura.

As noted during the telephone conference, there appears to be some residual confusion with respect to Nakajima. As discussed in detail in the last amendment, the sheet fed scanning units 100c and 100b, and the platen scanning unit 100a, each communicate with a main controller 300, thus each of the scanners shown communicated independently with the main controlling unit.

This is different from the present invention wherein one scanning unit communicates with another scanning unit to provide drive signals to the second scanning unit thus minimizing the number of components required.

Since there appears to be some confusion with respect to the wording of the claims, using the terms "first enclosure" and "second enclosure," the claims of the present invention have been modified to more clearly show that there are two separate scanners. Each of the scanners, the flat bed scanner and the sheet fed scanner, have enclosures. The statement in the Office Action that a translation means (102b of Figure 2) "receive a drive signal from said first enclosure," is not supported by the section of Nakajima referred to by the Office Action, i.e. column 5, lines 35-40. There is no reference in this section with respect to drive signals being transmitted from one scanner to another.

With respect to Sakura although a local area network is shown connecting several computers and two scanners, there is not indication that the scanners shown receive drive signals from each other. Thus, either Sakura individually or in combination with Nakajima fails to show all the limitations of the claims of the present invention.

The examiner tentatively agreed during the interview that neither Nakajima nor Sakura, taken in combination or alone, suggests providing a drive signal and power from a first type of scanner to a second type of scanner via a tether as claimed. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 22-32 is also improper and should be withdrawn.

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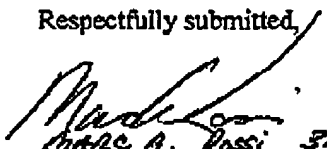
CONCLUSION

Dependent claims not specifically addressed add additional limitations to the independent claims, which have been distinguished from the prior art and are therefore also patentable.

In conclusion, none of the prior art cited by the Office Action discloses the limitations of the claims of the present invention, either individually or in combination. Therefore, it is believed that the claims are allowable.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that additional modifications to the claims are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below for a telephone interview and Examiner's amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

  
*Nelson A. Blish*  
Nelson A. Blish  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Registration No. 29,134

Nelson A. Blish/tmp  
Rochester, NY 14650  
Telephone: 585-588-2720  
Facsimile: 585-477-4646

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.